

## AMENDMENT

Please amend the above-referenced patent application as follows:

### In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A surgically modified nonhuman mammalian animal model comprising an nonhuman mammalian animal having a preoperative weight, a preoperative endogenous ghrelin production and a preoperative substantially normal animal gastrointestinal ~~system~~ tract that has ~~been surgically modified~~ undergone a surgical modification, wherein said surgical modification reduces the volume of ~~the~~ a stomach of said gastrointestinal tract and reduces the digestive area of said gastrointestinal tract; and, wherein postoperatively, said surgically modified nonhuman mammalian animal exhibits a substantially permanent reduction of said preoperative weight and a substantially permanent reduction in said preoperative endogenous ghrelin production.

2. (Currently Amended) The nonhuman mammalian animal model of claim 1, wherein said nonhuman mammalian animal is selected from the group comprising murine, ovine, porcine, caprine, canine, feline, and primate nonhuman mammalian animals.

3. (Currently Amended) The nonhuman mammalian animal model of claim 1, wherein said nonhuman mammalian animal is selected from the group comprising transgenic murine, ovine,

porcine, caprine, canine, feline, and primate nonhuman mammalian animals.

4. (Currently Amended) nonhuman mammalian animal model of claim 1 wherein said animal is a Zucker rat.

5. (Currently Amended ) The nonhuman mammalian animal model of claim of claim 1, wherein said nonhuman mammalian animal is selected from the group comprising genetically modified murine, ovine, porcine, caprine, canine, feline, and nonhuman mammalian animals.

6. (Currently Amended) The nonhuman mammalian animal model of claim 1, wherein said nonhuman mammalian animal is selected from the group comprising cloned murine, ovine, porcine, caprine, canine, feline, and nonhuman mammalian animals.

7. (Currently Amended) The nonhuman mammalian animal model of claim 1, wherein said surgical modification is selected from the group comprising bariatric surgeries, biliopancreatic diversion, gastric banding, gastric reduction, gastric by-pass, gastrectomy, gastrocolostomy, gastroduodenostomy, gastroenterocolostomy, gastroenteroplasty, gastroenterostomy, gastroenterotomy, gastroesophagostomy, gastrogastrostomy, gastroileostomy, gastrojejunostomy, gastroplasty, vertical banded gastroplasty, intestinal bypass, restriction operations, and weight-loss surgery.

8. (Currently Amended) The nonhuman mammalian animal model of claim 4 wherein said Zucker rat has undergone a Roux-en-Y gastroplasty.